

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4827

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJ: SAUDI PERSPECTIVE ON ABDAL ALIM'S ESCAPADE

BEGIN SUMMARY: SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE IN SANA IS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH WAY ABDAL ALIM WAS PUT DOWN BY YEMENI GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVEW SAUDI SUPPORT WHICH PROVIDED TO YARG LAYS BASIS FOR EXPANDED YAR-SAUDI COOPERATION IN MILITARY MATTERS. HE ALSO SEES NEW BASIS FOR GHASHMI'S POPULARITY. END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE TO SANA, LT. COL. SALIH HUDAYAN, TOLD DATT AND MYSELF TODAY, MAY 24, THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH SUCCESS OF YARG IN DEALING WITH ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM. HUDAYAN NOTED WITH PARTICULAR SATISFACTION THAT GHASHMI HAD RESISTED ADVICE FROM SOME ARMY QUARTERS TO STRIKE EARLY AND HARD AND HAD INSTEAD LET POLITICIANS FROM HUJARIYYA REGION, LIKE PRIME MINISTER ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI AND AHMAD ABDO SAID, DO AND OFFER ALL THEY COULD TO SETTLE MATTER PEACEFULLY. HUDAYAN CLAIMS THAT SOUTHERNERS IN END GAVE AGREEMENT TO ARMY TO STRIKE AND, IN PROCESS, MAINTAINED FRAGILE NORTH-SOUTH COHESION. SALIH GOES ON TO SAY THAT WHEN PRESIDENT WAS FLOWN DOWN TO HUJARIYYA DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY (ON

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SAUDI HELICOPTERS), AND TOURED SUBDUED AREA PROMISING ROADS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS, HE WAS RECEIVED WITH GENUINE WARMTH, ALMOST AS LIBERATOR.

2. HUDAYAN IN EUPHORIC ABOUT ROLE OF YEMEN AIR FORCE IN OPERATION, NOTING THAT AUGUSTA-BELL HELICOPTERS FROM SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN USED TO RESUPPLY GOVERNMENT

TROOPS AND SPOT ENEMY FORMATIONS FOR MIGS TO HIT.
MIGS WERE PILOTED BY MEN FROM HUJARIYYA, NOTED HUDAYAN.
(LIKE FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAY AND MINISTER OF STATE
AHMAD ABDO SAID, HUDAYAN SAID THAT USG MUST ARRANGE
FOR YAR AIR FORCE COMMANDER, MUHAMMAD DYFULLAH, TO
VISIT U.S. MORE IN SEPTEL.)

3. HUDAYAN CLAIMED THAT ACTION INFILCTED 68
CASUALTIES ON DISSIDENTS AND 2 ON YEMENI FORCES AND
CAUSED NO RPT NO CIVILIAN DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.
HOWEVER, HE NOTED WITH CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS REPORTS
TODAY THAT BODIES OF SEVEN MORE ABDAL ALIM HOSTAGES
HAD BEEN FOUND IN HASTILY DUG GRAVES THIS MORNING,
24 MAY, IN ZURAYQA AREA WHERE ABDAL ALIM HAD BURNED
HIS VEHICLES BEFORE CROSSING BORDER INTO PDRY. SEVEN
INCLUDED MANSOUR SHA'IF AND MUHAMMAD SHARABI, BOTH
NOTABLE HUJARIYYA LEADERS, AND TAIZI MERCHANT, AHMAD
HUJAIMI, WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED BECOME GOVERNOR OF
TAIZ PROVINCE. HUDAYAN ACKNOWLEDGED STORIES WHICH
CONTINUING TO CIRCULATE IN SANA TO EFFECT THAT ABDAL
ALIM IS STILL IN ZURAYQA AREA, BUT SAYS THAT HE HAS
BEEN TOLD (AS HAVE WE) THAT PDRY HAS OFFICIALLY
CONFIRMED TO YAR THAT ABDAL ALIM IS IN ADEN. HUDAYAN
SAID PDRY MIGHT RETURN ABDAL ALIM, AND NOTED WITH
SATISFACTION THAT PDRY HAD PROVIDED NO RPT NO HELP
TO ABDAL ALIM.

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4. HUDAYAN EXPECTS GHASHMI TO RETURN TO SANA TODAY
BY WAY OF HODEIDAH AND TO ANNOUNCE GOVERNMENT ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY. HE CLAIMS THAT ONLY IMPORTANT CHANGE
WILL BE APPOINTMENT OF AHMAD AL-HAMDANI, U.S. PH.D.
IN ECONOMICS, AS MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND, OF COURSE,
SAID HUDAYAN WITH FAIRLY BROAD SMILE, IRYANI WON'T
BE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

5. HUDAYAN INSISTS THAT HE ALSO EXPECTS YARG TO
MOVE IN SERIES OF SMALL STEPS TO REDUCE, IF NOT
ELIMINATE, SOVIET PRESENCE IN YEMEN. I WARNED HIM I
DIDN'T THINK YEMENIS WOULD GO VERY FAR OR VERY FAST IN
THIS DIRECTION, GIVEN DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN, AND I CITED
FIRST-HAND REPORT BY SOVIETS THAT ALI SHAYBA'S VISIT TO
MOSCOW HAD GUARANTEED CONTINUED PRESENCE OF 150-MAN
SOVIET MILITARY MISSION IN EXCHANGE FOR MORE SHIPMENTS
OF SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION, SOME OF WHICH HAD
ALREADY ARRIVED. HUDAYAN SAID HE THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT
UNDERSTOOD THAT YEMENIS DID NOT WANT TO CUT RELATIONSHIP
ALTOGETHER OR REDUCE SOVIET PRESENCE TOO QUICKLY, BUT
SAUDIS WOULD NEVERTHELESS GO AHEAD WITH BROADER FORMS

OF MILITARY SUPPORT FOR YAR WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT YEMENIS WOULD BEGIN TO SQUEEZE RUSSIANS OUT OF CERTAIN AREAS LIKE MILITARY COLLEGE AND AIR FORCE. IN MEANTIME, HE SHRUGGED, SAUDIS WOULD LIVE WITH GESTURES LIKE FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION TO MOSCOW CONFERENCE OF "AFRO-ASIA SOLIDARITY FRONT." SOVIET-EDUCATED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AHMAD AL-HAIDAR WILL LEAD YEMENI DELEGATION.

COMMENT: HUDAYAN'S EUPHORIA CONTRACTS HEARTEN-INGLY WITH MORDANT MOOD OF ASNAJ. REAL PROOF OF GHASHMI SUCCESS WILL BE NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER. RANSOM

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